



Building Blocks to a Healthy Start

Resources to Help Make Sure All Our Kids are "AOK"



BELT POSITIONING BOOSTER SEATS

- A belt-positioning booster seat (BPB) is a type of child safety seat that elevates and positions the children so that the vehicle lap and shoulder belt fit them properly.
- A booster seat is typically recommended for children who are 4 to 8 years old or who weigh at least 40 pounds and are up to 4 feet 9 inches tall.
- Booster seats must **never** be used with a **lap belt only**.
- A proper fit is obtained when the lap belt fits across the hips and the shoulder belt fits across the child's shoulder and chest.
- Always read and follow the booster seat manufacturer's instructions as well as those in the vehicle owner's manual.



SAFETY BELTS



- Children who reach a height of 4 feet 9 inches before their 8th birthday may be ready for adult seat belts.
- Children can move to a safety belt when they can place their back firmly against the vehicle seat back cushion with their knees bent over the vehicle seat cushion.
- The lap belt must fit low and tight across the child's upper thighs. The shoulder belt should rest over the shoulder and across the chest.
- Never put the shoulder belt under the arm or behind the child's back.
- Seat belts are made for small adults who weigh at least 80 pounds are 4 feet 9 inches tall.
- Always read and follow the instructions in the vehicle owner's manual.

For more information on Infant and Children Safety, please visit the Kane County Health Department's website at www.kanehealth.com/aok.htm or call (630) 208-3801.

FACT SHEET – Belt Positioning Booster Seats and Safety Belts

Belt positioning boosters are safest for your school-age child in a crash. Any restraint is better than no restraint, but boosters are 60 percent safer than seat belts alone.

Does your car have a passenger air bag?

- The safest place for all children to ride is in the back seat.
- If an older child must ride in the front seat, move the vehicle seat as far back as possible, buckle the child properly, and make sure he stays in the proper position at all times. Some newer vehicles have the option to turn off the passenger air bag.

What is the Age/Size Appropriate Belt-Positioning Booster Seat?

- Children who have outgrown their convertible (converts from rear-facing infant to forward facing) or forward-facing-only child safety seats but are too small to ride safely in adult safety belts should be properly restrained in these seats.
- There are two types of Belt-Positioning Booster seats:
 - **Booster seat without a back** (backless or low-back) are used in vehicles with a high seat back in which the child's head can be supported (up to the top of the ears) by the vehicle seat back or head restraint.
 - **High-back booster seats** are used in vehicles with a low seat back in which the child's head cannot be supported by the vehicle seat back or head restraint. Some models have a removable back (to allow usage in vehicles that can support the child's head and neck).

What if a Vehicle has Lap-Only Safety Belts in the Rear Seating Positions?

- Booster seats must be used with a shoulder and lap belt, never with a lap belt only. Although shoulder belts cannot be added to the middle seating position of the back seat of older vehicles, many automakers offer, "retrofit" (a kit for installing shoulder belts in the window seating positions).
- Some child safety seat manufacturers make child safety seats that accommodate children weighing up to 80 pounds. These seats can be properly installed using a lap belt only.
- Another option is the harness or vest, which includes a tether strap that must be attached to the anchor on the shelf behind the back seat. These vests have two rings at the bottom to allow for use with the lap belt.

What is the law regarding seat belts and vehicles?

- under the age of eight, secure in a child safety seat
- eight years of age or more, but less than 19 must be secured in a seat belt or child safety seat.
- All adults must be secured by a safety belt.

Questions?

Ask your pediatrician or the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) or a certified Child Passenger Safety Technician (CPS). Call the NHTSA Hotline at (888) 327-4236 or visit the website at <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/> to find a certified technician or center near you when you enter your zip code.

This information was obtained from The American Academy of Pediatrics and they offer more information when you visit the website at www.aap.org.